

the condition of education 2006



INDICATOR 21

Youth Neither in School nor Working

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2006). *The Condition of Education 2006*, NCES 2006-071, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.



Social and Cultural Outcomes

Youth Neither in School nor Working

In 2005, about 8 percent of youth ages 16–19 were neither enrolled in school nor working.

Youth between 16 and 19 years of age may be neither enrolled in school nor working for many reasons. For example, they may be seeking but are unable to find work, or they may have left the workforce temporarily or permanently to start a family. This indicator provides information on the transitions of youth when most are entering postsecondary education or joining the workforce. This is a critical period for young people as they pursue their educational goals and career paths.

From 1986 through 2005, the percentage of such youth remained between 7 and 10 percent annually (see supplemental table 21-1). In contrast to this small amount of variation between these years, within any single year, the percentage of such youth varied more within certain subgroups of the population. In 2004, for example, the percentage of such youth varied markedly by education, age, and poverty status, though there was no measurable difference by sex.

In 2005, 54 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not in high school and with less than a high school diploma were not working. In contrast, 13 percent of those with at least a high school diploma or

equivalent were neither in school nor working. This pattern of higher percentages for youth with less than a high school diploma than for youth with a high school diploma also held for all other years observed. Similarly, 13 percent of youth ages 18–19 were neither in school nor working in 2005, compared with 4 percent of youth ages 16–17. This pattern of higher percentages for youth ages 18–19 than for youth ages 16–17 was consistent across all years observed. Family poverty was also positively related to youth neither in school nor working. In each year observed from 1986 through 2005, the percentages of such youth were higher for youth from poor families than for their counterparts from nonpoor families.¹ For instance, in 2005, these percentages were 18 and 5 percent, respectively. In contrast, sex was not related to the percentage of youth neither in school nor working.

Differences were found by race/ethnicity in 2005. For example, the percentage of youth who were neither in school nor working was 6 percent for Whites, 12 percent for Blacks, and 13 percent for Hispanics. However, no measurable difference was found between Blacks and Hispanics.

¹ "Poor" is defined to include those families below the poverty threshold; "near-poor" is defined as 100–199 percent of the poverty threshold; and "nonpoor" is defined as 200 percent or more than the poverty threshold. See supplemental note 1 for more information on poverty.

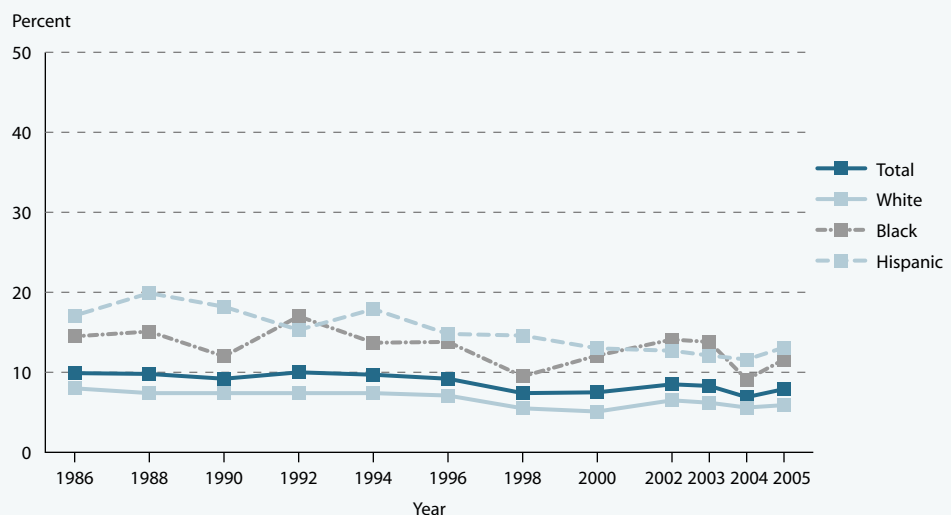
NOTE: Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. Other race/ethnicities are included in the total but are not shown separately. The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See supplemental note 2 for more information and for an explanation of the neither enrolled nor working variable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1986–2005, previously unpublished tabulation (January 2006).



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 2
Supplemental Table 21-1

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: Percentage of youth ages 16–19 who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1986–2005



Youth Neither in School nor Working

Table 21-1. Percentage of youth ages 16–19 who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by selected characteristics: Selected years, 1986–2005

Characteristic	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	9.9	9.8	9.2	10.0	9.7	9.2	7.4	7.5	8.5	8.3	6.9	7.9
Sex												
Male	8.7	8.1!	7.7!	8.4!	8.2!	7.8!	7.3!	6.1!	8.3	8.5	6.7	7.7
Female	11.1	11.4	10.7	11.6	11.3	10.6	7.6!	8.9	8.8	8.1	7.2	8.1
Age												
16–17	5.1	4.5	4.6!	4.8	5.0	4.5!	3.4!	3.6!	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5
18–19	14.9	15.2	13.3	15.2	14.6	14.2	11.6	11.3	13.7	13.9	11.0	13.2
Education												
Less than high school, not enrolled in high school	55.0	57.4	53.7	61.5	60.0	52.9	48.0	42.0	49.0	51.4	48.7	54.1
High school diploma or equivalent	12.6	12.1	10.4	13.2	12.4	12.5	9.7	11.0	12.9	14.1	10.8	12.9
Race/ethnicity ¹												
White	8.0	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.1	5.5!	5.1!	6.5	6.2	5.6	5.9
Black	14.5	15.1	12.0	17.0	13.7	13.8	9.5	12.1	14.1	13.8	9.1	11.6
Hispanic	17.1	19.9	18.2	15.3	17.9	14.8	14.6	13.0	12.7	12.1	11.6	13.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	6.0	3.1!	6.8	4.1!	3.2!	5.6!	4.3!	3.1	5.2	4.1	4.3
Other	10.1	21.8	12.3	14.1	8.5	21.8	12.4	18.6	19.3	11.3	8.3	9.3
Citizenship												
U.S.-born	—	—	—	—	9.0	8.9	6.8	7.1	8.2	7.9	6.6	7.6
Naturalized U.S. citizen	—	—	—	—	17.2	1.5!	11.1	4.8!	4.3	11.1	4.6	5.0
Non-U.S. citizen	—	—	—	—	18.3	14.3	15.9	12.7	13.1	13.2	12.1	13.3
Poverty ²												
Poor	22.6	25.1	21.5	25.5	22.9	20.9	15.9	15.9	20.4	18.9	15.6	17.7
Near-poor	13.0	13.2	13.3	12.1	13.0	10.9	11.7	11.6	11.4	11.6	9.3	10.8
Nonpoor	5.3	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.3!	5.2	4.0!	4.2!	5.3	5.1	4.4	4.8

— Not available.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

¹ Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Other includes American Indian (including Alaska Native), and persons of more than one race. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

² "Poor" is defined to include those families below the poverty threshold; "near-poor" is defined as 100–199 percent of the poverty threshold; and "nonpoor" is defined as 200 percent or more than the poverty threshold. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on poverty.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for more information and for an explanation of the neither enrolled nor working variable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1986–2005, previously unpublished tabulation (October 2005).

Youth Neither in School nor Working

Table S21. Standard errors for the percentage of youth ages 16–19 who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1986–2005

Race/ethnicity	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	1.78	1.78	1.89	1.93	1.89	1.91	1.88	1.84	1.10	1.11	1.11	1.10
White	1.62	1.56	1.72	1.69	1.68	1.70	1.63	1.55	0.97	0.97	1.00	0.96
Black	1.69	1.72	1.66	1.88	1.71	1.70	1.57	1.70	1.44	1.45	1.31	1.38
Hispanic	2.36	2.50	2.65	2.43	2.57	2.46	2.65	2.47	1.37	1.37	1.46	1.45

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1986–2005, previously unpublished tabulation (October 2005).

Youth Neither in School nor Working

Table S21-1. Standard errors for the percentage of youth ages 16–19 who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by selected characteristics: Selected years, 1986–2005

Characteristic	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	1.78	1.78	1.89	1.93	1.89	1.91	1.88	1.84	1.10	1.11	1.11	1.10
Sex												
Male	2.53	2.53	2.69	2.75	2.68	2.70	2.64	2.59	1.54	1.55	1.56	1.09
Female	2.51	2.50	2.66	2.72	2.67	2.70	2.68	2.62	1.57	1.58	1.58	1.11
Age												
16–17	1.31	1.24	1.37	1.37	1.39	1.37	1.30	1.31	0.74	0.74	0.82	0.75
18–19	2.12	2.15	2.23	2.32	2.26	2.30	2.30	2.22	1.35	1.39	1.37	1.38
Education												
Less than high school, not enrolled in high school	2.97	2.96	3.27	3.14	3.14	3.30	3.59	3.46	1.97	2.01	2.18	2.04
High school diploma or equivalent	1.98	1.95	2.00	2.18	2.11	2.18	2.12	2.19	1.32	1.40	1.35	1.37
Race/ethnicity												
White	1.62	1.56	1.72	1.69	1.68	1.70	1.63	1.55	0.97	0.97	1.00	0.96
Black	1.69	1.72	1.66	1.88	1.71	1.70	1.57	1.70	1.44	1.45	1.31	1.38
Hispanic	2.36	2.50	2.65	2.43	2.57	2.46	2.65	2.47	1.37	1.37	1.46	1.45
Asian/Pacific Islander	†	1.42	1.14	1.62	1.27	1.16	1.64	1.43	0.65	0.86	0.83	0.85
Other	1.80	2.47	2.15	2.25	1.79	2.73	2.37	2.73	1.55	1.27	1.20	1.19
Citizenship												
U.S.-born	†	†	†	†	1.83	1.88	1.80	1.80	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08
Naturalized U.S. citizen	†	†	†	†	2.41	0.80	2.26	1.50	0.80	1.26	0.92	0.89
Non-U.S. citizen	†	†	†	†	2.48	2.31	2.63	2.34	1.33	1.36	1.42	1.39
Poverty												
Poor	2.50	2.60	2.69	2.81	2.69	2.69	2.62	2.56	1.59	1.57	1.58	1.56
Near-poor	2.01	2.02	2.23	2.10	2.15	2.06	2.31	2.24	1.25	1.29	1.27	1.27
Nonpoor	1.33	1.32	1.45	1.38	1.29	1.46	1.40	1.40	0.88	0.89	0.89	0.87

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1986–2005, previously unpublished tabulation (October 2005).